# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# POWER
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
POWER THEFT
Sharma Shri Madan Lal;Singh Shri Prabhunath

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

(a) the estimated annual loss suffered by the Government due to power theft in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by various State Electricity Boards and results achieved so far in this regard;

(c) the details of those State Electricity Boards which have failed in checking power theft particularly by the industrial consumers; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER ( SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE )

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 07.03.2008 REGARDING POWER THEFT.

(a) : The draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 34.33%, 34.54% and 32.07% respectively of the total energy available for sale. State-wise details are at Annex-I. The concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses was introduced in 2001-02. AT&C loss parameters capture the total performance of the Utility. It is a measure which captures not only technical losses, but also captures theft, pilferages and commercial losses due to poor metering and billing and non- realisation of dues.

(b) to (d) : The Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft of electricity, speedy trial of theft related offences and also for the recovery of the charges of electricity stolen. Based on the feedback from the States and other stakeholders, the Central Government has further strengthened the theft related provisions in the Act by enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007. By this amendment Act, theft of electricity has been explicitly made a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The distribution licensees have been empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity upon detection of theft. The penalty for repeated theft of electricity by large consumers has also been enhanced.

The Central Government has also requested the State Governments to take steps for effectively curbing power theft and has advised the introduction of suitable incentive schemes for such informers who give clue of the source of theft of electricity. The reward in such a scheme is to be linked to the amount of recoveries that can be effected in the cases reported. The State Governments have also been requested to expedite setting up of special courts as provided in the Electricity Act, 2003 for speedy disposal of theft related cases. As per the information available, steps taken by various States to check power theft are at Annex-II. The Central Government has built a national consensus to focus on a time bound programme for reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses. In the Chief Ministers` Conference held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 28th May 2007, a unanimous resolution was adopted which inter alia included the commitment of the States, with appropriate assistance from the Centre, to establish the necessary baseline data and information technology applications for energy accounting and auditing, and for ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft. In the Conference, the States committed themselves to achieve and sustain reduction in the overall AT&C losses in the next five years. It is proposed to introduce a restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the XI Plan with focus on establishing baseline data of AT&C loss, sanctioning projects for improvement of distribution network and incentivising Utilities which achieve AT&C loss reduction.